1524

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
EDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☑
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
B/P or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

SPEAKER JEANNE M
78 GEORGETOWN 4435

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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SY-05 CA-01 EMBT-02 SCS-06
AID-05 USSS-00 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 JUST-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 E-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SYE-00
/086 W

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O 222025Z DEC 78 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8553
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 4435
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 4435 VICE 4405
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: ODES, OGEN, GY (PEOPLES TEMPLE)
SUBJECT: JURY VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST INTO JONESTOWN
MASS DEATHS
REF: A.GEORGETOWN 4281 B. GEORGETOWN 4317
1. JURY VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST INTO DEATHS AT JONESTOWN
ON NOV 18 WAS RETURNED TODAY (DEC 22).
2. ACCORDING TO PRESIDING MAGISTRATE HAROON BACCHUS, JURY
FOUND THAT 910 PERSONS WERE MURDERED BY REV. JIM JONES AND
HIS ASSOCIATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL TEAM AT
JONESTOWN. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY ACUTE POISONING.
3. JURY ALSO DELIVERED VERDICT ON FOUR ADDITIONAL PERSONS.
REV. JIM JONES WS MURDERED BY PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN;
DEATH CAUSED BY GUNSHOT WOUNDS. MARIA KATSARIS, THE JURY
DECIDED, COMMITTED SUICIDE BY TAKING POISON. ANN ELIZABETH
MOORE (A/A ANNIE MOORE) COMMITTED SUICIDE AND DIED OF GUN-
SHOT WOUNDS. THE FOURTH PERSON, AN UNIDENTIFIED CAUCASIAN
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MALE, ABOUT SIX FEET TALL, DIED OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE
JURY COULD NOT DECIDE THE CAUSE OF DEATH IN HIS CASE, AND
THEREFORE DELIVERED AN "OPEN VERDICT."
4. MAGISTRATE BACCHUS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE DIRECTED THE
JURY TO FIND THAT JIM JONES WAS MURDERED, AND THAT BOTH KATSARIS
AND MOORE HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE. BACCHUS SAID HE FELT THAT
ENTRIES IN MOORE'S DIARY INDICATED THA COMMITTED SUICIDE,
AND THE FACT THAT KATSARIS WROTE A WILL JUST BEFORE HER DEATH
INDICATED THAT SHE TOO COMMITTED SUICIDE. BACCHUS ADDED THAT
IN HIS OPINION THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE IN THE CASES OF
JONES, KATSARIS AND MOORE TO JUSTIFY ANOTHER DETERMINATION,
AND THAT IF THE JURY HAD RETURNED ANOTHER VERDICT, THE ENTIRE
DECISION OF THE JURY COULD HAVE BEEN LEGALLY CHALLENGED.
5. DURING DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE JURY'S VERDICT, ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE "SKIP" ROBERTS INFORMED CONSUL THAT
HE MAY RELEASE LATER THIS EVENING (DEC 22) THE NAMES OF
ADDITIONAL PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS WHO ARE FREE TO LEAVE GUYANA.
BURKE

SHAFFER JEANNE M
PE GEORGETOWN 4435

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